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JFK ACT
RELEASE

Ray Stripped Of Privileges For 30 Days

PETROS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray will be stripped of all privileges and confined to a single cellblock in Tennessee's maximum security prison for 30 days.

The confessed slayer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. lost his status as an "honor grade" prisoner at Brushy Mountain State Prison yesterday for making an unsuccessful escape attempt Monday.

The prison's disciplinary committtee imposed the punishment in its weekly hearing.

For the next 15 days, Ray will be kept in the disciplinary unit at all times except for bathing, said Warden Robert H. Moore. In the secoond 15-day period, he will be allowed exercise.

"At the end of the 30 days," Moore said, "he will be reassigned to administrative segregation. This means he will get back some of his privileges but he won't be able to associate with the general prison population."

Ray is serving a 99-year term for kkilling King in Memphis on April 4, 1968. He was recaptured after he hacked a hole in his cell and tried to escape through a stream tunnel. Heat forced him back.